



NEWS

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Community invited to help celebrate the completion of Diagonal Highway Transportation Improvements Project at Jan. 23 celebration

The City of Boulder invites the community to help celebrate the Diagonal Highway Transportation Improvements Project, between 28th Street and Independence Road. Construction on the project was completed in December 2016, and the city's Transportation Division will host a special project celebration on Monday, Jan. 23, from 12 to 1 p.m., in the new Diagonal Park Plaza (southeast corner of 28th St and the Diagonal Highway).

City of Boulder Mayor Suzanne Jones, Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Region Four Representative Johnny Olson and City of Boulder Public Works Director for Transportation Michael Gardner-Sweeney are scheduled to provide remarks at the event.

"This project is about creating a gateway to the city that connects people using all modes of travel," said Gardner-Sweeney, "and supporting the city's Transportation Master Plan goals of complete streets, regional travel, travel demand management and funding."

The project transformed a critical section of the Diagonal Highway into a multi-modal corridor and gateway to and from Boulder, with a new roadway surface, multi-use path, off-street protected bicycle lanes and upgraded transit stops, while maintaining the existing vehicular lanes. The improvements contribute to a safer and more efficient travel experience for drivers, transit users, pedestrians and cyclists.

"CDOT, and Region 4, are dedicated to supporting all modes of transportation, and we are always looking for ways to improve safety and mobility with CDOT-supported projects," said Johnny Olson. CDOT provided \$6.37 million in grant funds towards the \$11 million project, with funds from the Federal Highway Administration (\$2.8 million) and city transportation funds (\$1.77 million) completing the budget.

Planning and design of the Diagonal Highway Transportation Improvements Project began in 2013, followed by construction in August 2015. Through spring 2017, 390 trees and over 6,000 shrubs will be planted, and public art will be installed creating a gateway to/from the city.

In conjunction with the city's Winter Walk and Bike Week (Jan. 23 to 29), Boulder Walks and the Boulder Ramblers will lead a community walk to the celebration. The walk will begin at the East

Mapleton Ball Fields (north side of fields, 2826 Mapleton Ave.) at 11 a.m. and will arrive in time for the ribbon cutting ceremony and refreshments.

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